THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) In satellite mode, programmes of both DD-1 and DD-9 channels are available in the entire country and can be received by using an appropriate dish antenna system. Programmes of DD-1 channel are available in terrestrial mode also and about 75.2% of population of Karnataka is estimated to be covered by existing transmitters.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is the continuous endeavour of Doordarshan to improve the quality of programmes being telecast, based on the audience response and demands of a public service broadcasting organization. Since January 1, 2000, the Kannada satellite channel telecasts programmes round the clock. Further, Doordarshan proposes to add more variety to the programmes in this channel.

Financial aid given to Prasar Bharati

†2519. DR. D. MASTHAN :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati was given the status of statutory corporation by Government in July, 1997.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said institution has been given financial aid every year in the past by Government; and

(c) if so, the total financial aid provided to Prasar Bharati through various sources by Government till the end of December, 1999 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) has been established with effect from 23-11-97.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The details of Budgetary support provided to Prasar Bharati during the last three years is as follows :—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1997-98	71.06	650.26	721.32
1998-99	80.00	749.31	829.31
1999-2000	158.77	860.00	1018.77

Estimate regarding People seeing TV Programmes

†2520. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD CASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any estimate regarding the people in the country who see the programmes being telecast on the television;

(b) if so, the estimate in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to extend the telecasting range;

(d) if so, the details, of the scheme; and

(e) the total amount of money estimated to be spent on the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) According to the estimates of Doordarshan and other Market Research Organisation, out of the estimated 18 crores homes in India nearly 7 crores homes access to programmes being telecast on the television.

(c) to (e) For further expansion of TV coverage, 310 transmitter projects (271 for DD1, 38 for DD2 and 1 for Kashir channel) are presently under implementation. Approved capital cost of these projects is Rs. 683.00 crores.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.